opening of the First Grade College, with the prayer and hope that it will develop into a self-sufficient University for the Cochin State. Every subject of His Highness is proud of the headway we have made.

Female Education—The present advancement of the female education is an object of praise. It is no small matter for congratulation, when we see a Second Grade College for Women in our small State. I am told that the Queen Mary's College at Madras is mostly a Cochin College. It will be no vain talk if I am to foretell that, in a few years, Cochin will have to establish a First Grade College for Women, to be affiliated with its own University. To say the least, our State stands first in respect of female education in India. But it is a matter for investigation whether the large amount now spent on Grants in-aid is utilised to the best advantage of the State.

Medical— When we are working with a deficit budget, every means should be adopted to cut short the extravagant expenses. Now, we have, in all, excluding the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, 3 Civil Surgeons, 12 Assistant Surgeons and 33 Sub-Assistant Surgeons, with a corresponding establishment. In a small State like ours, this is too many. Every year, the Medical staff (I mean, ihe htgher staff) is seen increasing. Every means should be adopted to cut short the expenses, without affecting the quality and efficiency of the medical work. We should resort to the cheapest market for our medicines and instruments and, if possible, to India alone.

The Ayurvedic System of treatment should be encouraged more liberally. Our State is the hereditary seat of many efficient Ayurvedic physicians. We are more competent to appreciate the value of the system which is flourishing here than anywhere else. The State support is quite inadequate in this direction. Our Government should take a lead and establish an ideal department, for other Native States and the British Government, to follow. On the medical side, this system is in no way—in my opinion—inferior to any other system, and it is infinitely less costly.

I may say a few words about the appointments in the Medical Department. In March last, an

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additional Civil Surgeon on Rs. 200—350 was appointed. From the reply to my question, it is clear that the appointment was for the X-Ray department. Let us see where our X-Ray stands to-day. Have the apparatus reached India? I am informed that they are not. (I am open to correction, if my information is wrong). Where is our X-Ray building? I say, it is in the budget for the next year. We do not know, at this stage, how long we are to wait for the commencement of the practical working of the X-Ray. One Sub-assistant Surgon is on study-leave for X-Ray training at Madras. Why this leave at this juncture? Is it only to draw the leave allowance?

The appointment of the X-Ray Expert, long before the inception of the whole scheme, on a fat salary, to say the least, is a waste of public money.

The reply to my supplementary question clearly showed that the X-Ray Expert is no expert in eye-diseases. An Assistant Surgeon, with an allowance, if necessary, would have served the purpose.

This hole-and-corner-way of appointment will bring discontent of the services, and, in the long run, the satisfactory working of the department, I am sure, will suffer to a great extent.

I do not know how far such methods are adopted in other departments. If so, it is high time to remedy such a state of things.

The shifting of the X-Ray installation to Trichur will be more useful to the people of the State.

In commenting upon this appointment, I am actuated by a genuine and earnest desire to place before the Government and this Council the imperative necessity to go into the question of the general services and the need for retrenchment in all departments. I hope, the Government will, ere long, take steps to appoint a committee of official and non-official members to go into the whole question and suggest ways and means to that end.

Irrigation.—Sir, coming as I do from the Chittur Taluk, where my *tarawad* owns large landed properties, I can claim to speak with some authority on the irrigation system that obtains there.

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